during 2000—2003. In addition, an amount of Rs.17.43 crores has been released for Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation during the IX Plan to various Coastal States/Union Territories, including West Bengal.

Sloth bears in the captivity of Kalandars

3207. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1000 sloth bears, an endangered species, throughout the country with 148 in Uttar Pradesh alone in the captivity of Kalandars, who are using them in their shows;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to get them freed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is only one Bear Preservation Centre working in Agra; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to establish such Centres in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV):(a) There are reports of Sloth bears in possession of Kalandars across the country. However, systematic nation wide survey has not been done by the Forest Department except in Uttar Pradesh where 91 Kalandars are reported to be in possession of Sloth bears at present.

(b) The concerned Chief Wildlife Warden has been asked to stop performance of bears by Kalandars and take action for their rehabilitation at Bear Rescue Centre, Agra.

(c) Rescue and rehabilitation centres for Sloth bears have been established at Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Bannerghatta (Karnataka) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

(d) there is no proposal for establishment of Rescue Centre for rehabilitation of Sloth bears in possession of Kalandars in other parts of the country at present.

Inclusion of tea gardens as forest cover

3208. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

whether Government would consider to include tea gardens as a forest cover in any State of India for the purpose of computing the areas under forest cover of that State as tea trees of a tea garden have also effect in ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV):(a) The Forest Survey of India, in its latest State of Forest Report, 2001 has already included all lands with tree crops, including tea estates with trees, in forest cover.

Registration of cases for causing harm to forest and wildlife

†3209. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the cases registered for causing harm to forest and wildlife under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act during the last three years alongwith the areas where such cases have been registered;

(b) the number of persons found guilty thereof; and

(c) the number of persons punished alongwith the types of punishments given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV):(a) to (c) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 deals with diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. It does not deal with forest and wildlife offences. The forest and wildlife offences are delt as per the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and various State Forest Acts for the time being in force. The operational aspects of the said Acts are the responsibility of the various State/Union Territory Governments and therefore, records of such offences, number of guilty persons, punishments awarded to guilty persons etc. are also maintained by them. Government of India does not maintain such records.

World summit on sustainable development

3210. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.